The outcomes of the APOC Director’s visit to Chad could be summarized as strong commitment. That is the feeling one gets, following the discussions between the Director and the new Minister of Public Health and the Representative of the World Bank on 27th and 28th November in N’Djamena.

Reassuring promises came from the discussions between the Minister of Public Health of Chad and APOC delegation, led by Dr Jean-Baptiste Roungou accompanied by the WHO resident Representative in Chad on 28th November 2013. The new Minister of health, appointed by the new Prime Minister the day before, welcomed the first visitors in his new mandate.

Very mindful of the APOC Director’s presentation on the good results relating to onchocerciasis that should be consolidated. He stated that the repercussions of neglected tropical diseases on health and development are so serious that no one should be indifferent. For that reason, he assured the APOC delegation that he will see to it that additional resources are allocated to control this disease and NTD.

Additionally, he said that APOC’s request to the Government of Chad for their contribution to the Trust Fund will receive a favorable response, even though it may not be immediate. This request is, however, brought to the attention of the highest authorities and is well underway. As regards the positive results recorded from Onchocerciasis control, they will be posted on the Ministry’s Website that will be reactivated soon. Finally, the Minister assured the APOC delegation that Chad would be represented at the 19th session of the Joint Action Forum, planned to take place from 11th-13th December 2013 in Brazzaville.

In the presence of his key collaborators, the new Minister shared with his guests his vision of public health that he would like to gear more towards prevention, while referring with nostalgia to the much-successful old time immunization campaigns, despite their limited approach. To him, the path to NTD elimination should continue to go through the populations to avoid their disastrous consequences.

The World Bank, APOC Fiscal Agent
The Representation in Chad will provide more support to NTD control activities

In Chad, the World Bank’s support to activities for the control of some diseases, among which are those called neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) including Onchocerciasis, will be better allocated from now on. These diseases are already at the heart of its concerns as part of public health multisectorial cooperation. By saying so, the resident Representative of the World Bank in Chad was reacting to the good results presented by the Director of APOC at a hearing on 27th November 2013 in N’Djamena.
This support is also available for other health and population problems. As indicated by the resident Representative, «The beginning of health is at home, then at school, and then at work, and it ends at the hospital. The solutions to health problems should therefore begin quite before the hospital. And the World Bank is there all along the process of development aid».

The Bank considers cross-sectoral approaches by providing help to communities confronted with health problems in various domains such as hygiene, education, housing, etc. «In Chad, the institution contributes to improving the populations’ living conditions in rural and urban areas.»

Adama Coulibaly told his interlocutors how, at his own level, he valued the problem of health. He therefore promised to look for the possibility to assist the Government of Chad to eliminate Onchocerciasis in collaboration with WHO. He took this opportunity to encourage the WHO Representative to largely share the goods results recorded in the fight against river blindness.